

Message Text

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C O N F I S T E N T I A L LIMA 9678

DEPARTMENT PASS PEACE CORPS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE

SUBJECT: EXPULSION OF PEACE CORPS: STORY APPEARS IN PRESS

1. LIMA PRESS NOVEMBER 15 HAS STORIES ON PEACE CORPS EXPULSION. DAILY EL COMERCIO HEADLINES GOVERNMENT ASKS U.S. TO REMOVE PEACE CORPS FROM PERUVIAN TERRITORY" AND FOLLOWS WITH A UPI STORY DATED WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 14. UPI STORY STATES IN FIRST PARAGRAPH THAT GOP HAS ASKED U.S. TO REMOVE 137 PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS. SECOND PARAGRAPH INDICATES THAT WORK IN WHICH VOLUNTEERS ENGAGED CAN BE DONE BY PERUVIAN WORKERS. THIRD AND FOURTH PARAGRAPHS JUXTAPOSE STORY ON GOP 1968 EXPULSION OF EMBOFFS AS ALLEGED CIA AGENTS (SEPTTEL).

2. CORREO TABLOID HEADLINES "CUERPO DE PAZ : GO HOME" STORY, APPARENTLY BASED UPON AFP DESPATCH, RECALLS HISTORY OF PEACE CORPS FROM KENNEDY AND ALLIANCE FOR PROGRESS ERA BUT ALLEGES THAT PRESENCE OF YOUNG AMERICANS IN POOR AND RURAL AREAS ALLOWED THEM TO GATHER VALUABLE INFORMATION ABOUT CULTURAL ATTITUDES AND POLICES OF THE PEOPLE. CORREO CONTINUES THAT THIS IN TURN ALLOWED EVALUATIONS OF POLITICAL SITUATIONS, IDENTIFICATION OF LEADERS, AND PRIOR INFORMATION CONCERNING EVOLVING SITUA-
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TIONS. CORREO SAYS "THIS HAD TO STOP. AND THAT WAS THE DECISION

OF OUR GOVERNMENT."

3. CORREO HAS FURTHER INSIDE STORY PRAISING GOP EXPULSION OF PEACE CORPS AS WELCOME NEWS TO THOSE WORRIED BY THE "CARTE BLANCHE" GIVEN CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS CONNECTED WITH THE NORTH AMERICAN "ESTABLISHMENT" FOR "IDEOLOGICAL PENETRATION" OF THE COUNTRY. CORREO CONCLUDES THAT NOW THE WORK IN PERU IS DEEMED SUSPECT MUST BE EVALUATED.

4. NEW YORK TIMES REPRESENTATIVE TOGETHER WITH LOCAL PRESS HAVE CONTACTED THE EMBASSY FOR COMMENT ON PEACE CORPS EXPULSION. WHEN AMBASSADOR SPOKE TO FONMIN DE LA FLOR ABOUT TRYING TO CONTAIN STORIES RELATING TO 1968 GOP EXPULSION OF EMBOFFS, LATTER ALSO INDICATED HE WAS PLANNING A STATEMENT CONCERNING PEACE CORPS WHICH WOULD PUT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE GOP DECISION, AND NOTE USEFUL PEACE CORPS CONTRIBUTION OVER PAST 12 YEARS, WHILE NOTING GOP NOW HAS RESOURCES TO CARRY OUT ACTIVITIES FORMERLY TASKED TO PEACE CORPS. WE ARE THUS REFERRING INQUIRIES IN FIRST INSTANCE TO FONOFF, INDICATING THAT ONCE GOP HAS HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE ANY STATEMENT, WE WILL BE PREPARED TO COMMENT.
DEAN

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